

Message Text

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ACTION SPC-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 ISO-00

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R 140500Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0951
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DACCA 4140/2

6. MUJIB'S VIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER AND OUR PLACE IN IT HAS SEVERAL ORIGINS. FOR ALMOST AS LONG AS HE HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE POLITICIAN, HE HAS COMMITTED HIMSELF AND HIS PARTY TO "PROGRESSIVE" CAUSES, BORROWING OR EMPLOYING PROGRESSIVE LANGUAGE. HE ATTENDED SOVIET SPONSORED WORLD PEACE CONFERENCES AS EARLY AS 1952. IN PRE-INDEPENDENCE DAYS THIS POSTURE SERVED HIS ANTI-PAK PURPOSES; AFTER INDEPENDENCE IT HAS KEPT HIM IN THE GOOD GRACES OF INDIA, THE SOVIET UNION AND HIS OWN LEFT. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LATTER IS WORTH UNDERLING. MUJIB IS DISTRAUGHT OVER INTERNAL OPPOSITION. BENGALIEE OPPOSITION, WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE RULING AWAMI LEAGUE IS PRINCIPALLY LEFT-INCLINED. BY WRAPPING HIMSELF IN NON-ALINGED PRINCIPLES THE SHEIKH INTENDED TO OUTFLANK HIS OPPONENTS.

7. MUJIB'S ANALYSIS OF THE WORLD REFLECTS NO GREAT UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE: HE IS, AFTER ALL, PRINCIPALLY A LOCAL OPPOSITION POLITICIAN TURNED CHIEF OF STATE. WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER DOES HAVE IS A SHARP PERCEPTION OF POWER. IN TODAY'S
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BANGLADESH HE KNOWS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT AMONG THOSE NATIONS WHO APPLY PRESSURE AND WHO ARE CAPABLE OF AND READY TO MOBILIZE DOMESTIC OPPOSITION. MUJIB IS NOT PERSONALLY ANTI-AMERICAN; INDEED HE IS PROBABLY FUNDAMENTALLY FRIENDLY. HE NEITHER OPPOSES THE UNITED STATES NOR ITS OBJECTIVES BUT HE FEELS COMPELLED TO OIL THE WHEELS THAT SQUEAK. IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT THESE WHEELS INCLUDE THE SOVIET UNION AND INDIA. IN THE SAME VEIN THE SHEIKH MAY WELL HAVE HAD CHINA IN MIND WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE ALGIERS GATHERING. HE CHOSE NOT TO ASSOCIATE HIMSELF WITH CASTRO'S BLATANTLY PRO-SOVIET REMARKS IN ALGIERS EVEN THOUGH CASTRO FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS PAID PERSONAL ATTENTION TO HIM. BY CASTING BANGLADESH'S LOT WITH THE OPPRESSED AND THE PROGRESSIVES AND BY PLAYING TO SIHANOUK, MUJIB LEFT HIS POSITION SUFFICIENTLY AMBIGUOUS TO PROVIDE ROOM FOR MANEUVER WITH THE PRC.

8. RELATIONS BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE IMPROVED GRADUALLY DURING THE YEAR. THERE IS NO DOUBT OUR WELCOME IS PRESENTLY WARMER AND THE CLIMATE FOR OUR WORK IN BANGLADESH MORE FAVORABLE THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE INDEPENDENCE. MUJIB KNOWS HE NEEDS HELP AND MAINTAINS THE DEGREE OF CORDIALITY REQUIRED TO INSURE OUR CONTINUED ECONOMIC COOPERATION. THIS DOES NOT MEAN HE BELIEVES HE IS UNDER PRESSURE TO RESERVE EITHER A PRIVILEGED WELCOME FOR US OR TO DEVELOP POLITICAL RELATIONS COMMENSURATE WITH THE ECONOMIC ROLE WE PLAY. THE UNITED STATES INTENTIONS TOWARD BANGLADESH ARE CLEAR TO MUJIB AND PRESENT NO THREAT TO HIM.

9. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHAT HE FELT SERVED HIS INTERESTS IN ALGIERS AND IS NOT LIKELY TO CHANGE HIS MIND. SINCE HE WILL DO AS HE SAYS, AT LEAST IN THE SHORT RUN, WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT MUCH OF A DIALM73 94 #8 700945 9, 8, 5 INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE MIDDLE EAST, S.E. ASIA AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, WHERE WE AND THE WORLD'S "PROGRESSIVES" DIFFER. SHOULD
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BANGLADESH GAIN ADMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS THE YEAR, AS THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE PROPOSED, MUJIB'S OPPOSITION TO MANY OF OUR AIMS WILL TAKE MORE TANGIBLE FORM.
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